



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/917,200	07/27/2001	Jonathan Stern	2937.1000-007	8393

21005 7590 06/01/2005

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.
530 VIRGINIA ROAD
P.O. BOX 9133
CONCORD, MA 01742-9133

EXAMINER

HWANG, JOON H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2162

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/917,200

Applicant(s)

STERN ET AL.

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-11 and 13-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 and 12 is/are ~~withdrawn from consideration~~ *Cancelled*.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-11 and 13-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicant amended claims 1, 9, and 15 and canceled claims 5 and 12 in the amendment received on 4/4/2005.
2. The pending claims are 1-4, 6-11, and 13-19.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 9, and 15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The applicants added in claims 1 and 9 the limitations of maintains integrity of the automatically extracted information maintained by the automated means and not the person and in claim 15 the limitations of monitoring the global computer network for changes of information about a person. These limitations are addressed in the following rejection.

"Test of obviousness is not whether features of secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into primary reference's structure, nor whether claimed invention is expressly suggested in any one or all of references; rather, **test is what combined teachings of references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in art.**" In *re Keller*, Terry, and Davies, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981).

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208

USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claims 1 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuntebeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016) in view of Brady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,430), and further in view of Schneck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,409).

With respect to claim 1, Stuntebeck discloses extracting from a global computer network information about individual people and storing the extracted information in a database including for each person a respective record holding at least name of the person and the name of a respective current employer (abstract, fig. 1, lines 9-54 in col. 2, lines 28-55 in col. 3, and lines 28-54 in col. 4). Stuntebeck discloses enabling people named in the database to access respective records, the enabling access being in a manner that enables each respective person to edit the data in his record of the database such that the database is maintained and continually updated by the person named in the database (lines 52-55 in col. 3). Stuntebeck does not explicitly disclose extracting such information by using automated means. However, Brady discloses extracting unstructured information about individual people by using automated means, such as web crawlers, spiders, and Harvester and updating a database (line 56 in col. 6 thru line 26 in col. 7, lines 22-63 in col. 8, and line 53 in col. 20 thru line 11 in col. 21) so

Art Unit: 2162

that the database storing such extracted information is automatically built and integrity of the information in the database is maintained. Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Brady to the system of Stuntebeck in order to automatically build a database storing extracted information about individual people. Stuntebeck provides a security feature to stored information (lines 1-10 in col. 5). Stuntebeck and Brady do not explicitly disclose preventing a user to maintain the information stored in the database. However, Schneck discloses a system protecting data and preventing a user to access the protected data based on access rules and rights (abstract and lines 15-22 in col. 7). Schneck also teaches an originator-controlled access control (lines 30-48 in col. 4). These teach the protected data and the integrity of the protected data are maintained by the system. Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady, and further in view of Schneck, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Schneck to the system of Stuntebeck in order to prohibit a user from accessing protected data, so that a corruption of the protected data can be prevented.

With respect to claim 6, Stuntebeck teaches the respective record further holds job title of the person and querying the database by name and job title (lines 30-36 in col. 2, lines 27-54 in col. 4, and lines 11-40 in col. 5).

With respect to claim 7, the limitations of claim 7 are similar to the limitations of claims 1 and 6. Stuntebeck also discloses information about a company or organization

(abstract, fig. 1, lines 9-54 in col. 2, lines 28-55 in col. 3, and lines 28-54 in col. 4).

Brady also discloses extracting information about a company or organization by an automated means (lines 22-63 in col. 8). Therefore, the limitations of claim 7 are rejected in the analysis of claims 1 and 6 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

6. Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuntebeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016) in view of Brady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,430) and Schneck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,409), and further in view of Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,369).

With respect to claim 2, Stuntebeck, Brady, and Schneck disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed above except notifying a third party data system for a data update. However, Robertson discloses linking providing a communication link from a desired record in the database to a third party data system, updating the data in the desired record linked to the third party data system, and using the communication link, notifying the third party data system of the updated data in the desired record such that the third party data system employs the updated data in maintaining data of the third party data system (abstract, fig. 5, fig. 14, lines 12-21 in col. 3, lines 42-45 in col. 4, lines 48-54 in col. 6, lines 50-58 in col. 11, lines 25-44 in col. 12, and line 42 in col. 15 thru line 21 in col. 16). Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady and Schneck, and further in view of Robertson, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Robertson to the

system of Stuntebeck in order to maintain databases synchronized, so that the information maintained in the databases is kept current and complete.

With respect to claim 8, the limitations of claim 8 are similar to the limitations of claim 2. Therefore, the limitations of claim 8 are rejected in the analysis of claim 2 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

7. Claims 3, 4, 9, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuntebeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016) in view of Brady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,430) and Schneck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,409), and further in view of Polnerow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,006).

With respect to claim 3, Stuntebeck, Brady, and Schneck disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed above except enabling a sender to send a message to a named person based on name of the person absent the sender having an email address for the named person. However, Polnerow discloses utilizing the database as an e-mail communication system to each person named in the database, the e-mail communication system enabling a sender to send a message to a named person based on name of the person absent the sender having an email address for the named person (line 40 in col. 6 thru line 67 in col. 7). Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady and Schneck, and further in view of Polnerow, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Polnerow to the system of Stuntebeck in order to protect a privacy of a named person in the database.

With respect to claim 4, Stuntebeck, Brady, and Schneck disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed above except advertising. However, Polnerow discloses targeted advertising to a named person during access his record, the targeted advertising being based on information stored in the record (fig. 3, lines 22-57 in col. 4, and lines 34-61 in col. 5). Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady, and further in view of Polnerow, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Polnerow to the system of Stuntebeck in order to provide a user information about products and services from vendors or suppliers, so that vendors and suppliers make a profit by selling the products and services.

With respect to claim 9, Stuntebeck discloses providing a database storing information regarding people, extracting information regarding people and/or organizations from sites on a global computer network, and storing the extracted information in the database (abstract, fig. 1, lines 9-54 in col. 2, lines 28-55 in col. 3, and lines 28-54 in col. 4). Stuntebeck discloses enabling individuals to annotate, including updating, information stored in the database in a manner that maintains integrity of the information as extracted (lines 52-55 in col. 3). Stuntebeck does not explicitly disclose extracting such information by using automated means. However, Brady discloses extracting unstructured information about individual people by using automated means, such as web crawlers, spiders, and Harvester and updating a database (line 56 in col. 6 thru line 26 in col. 7, lines 22-63 in col. 8, and line 53 in col. 20 thru line 11 in col. 21) so that the database storing such extracted information is automatically built and integrity

Art Unit: 2162

of the information in the database is maintained. Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Brady to the system of Stuntebeck in order to automatically build a database storing extracted information about individual people. Stuntebeck provides a security feature to stored information (lines 1-10 in col. 5). Stuntebeck and Brady do not explicitly disclose preventing a user to maintain the information stored in the database. However, Schneck discloses a system protecting data and preventing a user to access the protected data based on access rules and rights (abstract and lines 15-22 in col. 7). Schneck also teaches an originator-controlled access control (lines 30-48 in col. 4). These teach the protected data and the integrity of the protected data are maintained by the system. Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady, and further in view of Schneck, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Schneck to the system of Stuntebeck in order to prohibit a user from accessing protected data, so that a corruption of the protected data can be prevented. Stuntebeck, Brady, and Schneck do not explicitly disclose enabling a sender to send a message to a named person based on name of the person absent the sender having an email address for the named person. However, Polnerow teaches coupling an e-mail clearinghouse system to the database, in a manner that enables each person named in the database to receive e-mail in a respective e-mail box, in a manner free of the database indicating email addresses of people named in the database to email message senders (line 40 in col. 6 thru line 67 in col. 7). Therefore,

based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady and Schneck, and further in view of Polnerow, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Polnerow to the system of Stuntebeck in order to protect a privacy of a named person in the database.

With respect to claim 14, Stuntebeck, Brady, and Schneck disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed above except advertising. However, Polnerow discloses targeted advertising to a named person during access his record, the targeted advertising being based on information stored in the record (fig. 3, lines 22-57 in col. 4, and lines 34-61 in col. 5). Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady and Schneck, and further in view of Polnerow, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Polnerow to the system of Stuntebeck in order to provide a user information about products and services from vendors or suppliers, so that vendors and suppliers make a profit by selling the products and services.

8. Claims 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuntebeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016) in view of Brady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,430), Schneck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,409), and Polnerow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,006), and further in view of Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,369).

With respect to claim 10, Stuntebeck, Brady, Schneck, and Polnerow disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed above except notifying a third party data system for a data update. However, Robertson discloses linking providing a

Art Unit: 2162

communication link from a desired record in the database to a third party data system, updating the data in the desired record linked to the third party data system, and using the communication link, notifying the third party data system of the updated data in the desired record such that the third party data system employs the updated data in maintaining data of the third party data system (abstract, fig. 5, fig. 14, lines 12-21 in col. 3, lines 42-45 in col. 4, lines 48-54 in col. 6, lines 50-58 in col. 11, lines 25-44 in col. 12, and line 42 in col. 15 thru line 21 in col. 16). Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady, Schneck, and Polnerow, and further in view of Robertson, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Robertson to the system of Stuntebeck in order to maintain databases synchronized, so that the information maintained in the databases is kept current and complete.

With respect to claim 13, the limitations of claim 13 are similar to the limitations of claim 10. Therefore, the limitations of claim 13 are rejected in the analysis of claim 10 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

9. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuntebeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016) in view of Brady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,430), Schneck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,409), Polnerow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,006), and Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,369), and further in view of Celik (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,768).

With respect to claim 11, Stuntebeck, Brady, Schneck, Polnerow, and Robertson disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed above except updating a database regularly. However, Celik discloses synchronizing contact databases periodically and automatically (lines 25-33 in col. 10). Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady, Schneck, Polnerow, and Robertson, and further in view of Celik, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Celik to the system of Stuntebeck in order to maintain databases synchronized periodically, so that the information maintained in the databases is kept current and complete.

10. Claims 15, 16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuntebeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016) in view of Brady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,430), and further in view of Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,369).

With respect to claims 15 and 16, Stuntebeck discloses extracting from a global computer network information about individual people and storing the extracted information in a database (abstract, fig. 1, lines 9-54 in col. 2, lines 28-55 in col. 3, and lines 28-54 in col. 4). Stuntebeck does not explicitly disclose extracting unstructured information about individual people and organizations. However, Brady discloses extracting unstructured information about individual people by using automated means, such as web crawlers, spiders, and Harvester and updating a database (line 56 in col. 6 thru line 26 in col. 7, lines 22-63 in col. 8, and line 53 in col. 20 thru line 11 in col. 21) so

Art Unit: 2162

that the database storing such extracted information is automatically built and integrity of the information in the database is maintained. Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Brady to the system of Stuntebeck in order to automatically build a database storing extracted information about individual people. Stuntebeck and Brady do not explicitly disclose notifying an interested party for a data update. However, Robertson discloses monitoring a global computer network (i.e., a server and clients are connected via Internet in fig. 5 and fig. 14 and a synchronization is performed in bi-direction, a client to a server or a server to a client, lines 42-65 in col. 15) for changes in information about desired people or organizations with respect to the extracted information stored in the database, detecting a change in information about at least one person, notifying an interested party of the detected change (i.e., a user A updates an address change on a user computer A, and a server synchronizes the change with the user computer A, then the server notifies the update to an interested party, a user B, line 66 in col. 15 thru line 21 in col. 16), and from the global computer network as monitored, corresponding new information about the desired people or organization to the extracted information stored in the database, wherein the interested party includes the at least one person and new information about the at least one person is corresponded to extracted information about the at least one person stored in the database in response to the monitoring detecting a change (fig. 5, fig. 14, lines 12-21 in col. 3, lines 42-45 in col. 4, lines 48-54 in col. 6, lines 50-58 in col. 11, lines 25-44 in col. 12, and line 42 in col. 15 thru line 21 in col. 16). Robertson also

discloses linking providing a communication link from a desired record in the database to a third party data system, updating the data in the desired record linked to the third party data system, and using the communication link, notifying the third party data system of the updated data in the desired record such that the third party data system employs the updated data in maintaining data of the third party data system (abstract, fig. 5, fig. 14, lines 12-21 in col. 3, lines 42-45 in col. 4, lines 48-54 in col. 6, lines 50-58 in col. 11, lines 25-44 in col. 12, and line 42 in col. 15 thru line 21 in col. 16). Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady, and further in view of Robertson, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Robertson to the system of Stuntebeck in order to maintain databases synchronized, so that the information maintained in the databases is kept current and complete.

With respect to claim 19, Stuntebeck discloses storing the extracted information includes for each person, storing indications of name and job title of the person, and for each organization, storing indications of organization name and field of business of the organization, and querying the database by any combination of person name, job title, organization name and field of business (abstract, fig. 1, lines 9-54 in col. 2, lines 28-55 in col. 3, lines 28-54 in col. 4, and lines 11-40 in col. 5).

11. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuntebeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016) in view of Brady et al. (U.S. Patent

No. 6,463,430) and Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,369), and further in view of Polnerow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,006).

With respect to claim 17, Stuntebeck, Brady, and Robertson disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed above except enabling a sender to send a message to a named person based on name of the person absent the sender having an email address for the named person. However, Polnerow discloses utilizing the database as an email communication system to each person named in the information stored in the database, the email communication system enabling a sender to send a message to a named person based on name of the person absent the sender having an email address for the named person (line 40 in col. 6 thru line 67 in col. 7). Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady and Robertson, and further in view of Polnerow, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Polnerow to the system of Stuntebeck in order to protect a privacy of a named person in the database.

With respect to claim 18, Stuntebeck, Brady, and Robertson disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed above except advertising. However, Polnerow discloses advertising to a named person during access his record, the advertising being targeted based on information stored in the database (fig. 3, lines 22-57 in col. 4, and lines 34-61 in col. 5). Therefore, based on Stuntebeck in view of Brady and Robertson, and further in view of Polnerow, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Polnerow to the system of Stuntebeck in order to provide a user information about products and services from


Art Unit: 2162

vendors or suppliers, so that vendors and suppliers make a profit by selling the products and services.


12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joon Hwang 
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

5/27/05


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER